

BusinessVoice

LAS VEGAS METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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| JULY 2017

YOUR VOICE MATTERS:

Why Business Mattered
in the 2017 Legislature



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Your Voice Mattered

KRISTIN MCMILLAN
PRESIDENT & CEO



G

oing into the 2017 Legislature, we knew it would be an uphill battle to protect the business community in this state. Our Government Affairs team was on the ground in Carson City every single day to make sure your voice was heard. With more than 1,000 bills introduced, the Metro

Chamber tracked 560 of them and testified on well over 100. By end of session, your Chamber's Government Affairs team spent more than 2,000 hours at the Legislature protecting you.

The Metro Chamber and its Government Affairs Committee took seriously its role as the "voice of business." Protecting businesses from burdensome and costly legislation required engaging in the process with legislators and staff and other officials every day; it also required working hard as the convener and central point of information for other business and trade organizations in the state to ensure that the entire business community within the state was speaking with one voice as much as possible. With the Metro Chamber taking on responsibility to maintain coordination and communication, the broader business community was able to present a unified front on many significant and potentially harmful business measures.

As you'll read in in this month's issue, the session began with some very challenging bills that would have imposed significant costs and burdensome regulations on business – particularly small businesses. Some of these proposals failed to take into consideration the consequences of what would happen to employers and employees in Nevada – proposals such as a hike in the minimum wage and the associated costs that would have resulted, mandatory paid sick time, and laws that would have given too much and overly-broad power to regulatory agencies to find for discrimination charges and assess potentially excessive costs and penalties. The Metro Chamber ensured that any associated costs with these proposed bills, as well as the impacts on businesses and employees, was taken into consideration. These measures would have been a harmful setback to business profitability and growth, as well as morale.

We relied on you to get the message across to our legislators about the consequences of the onerous bills – through surveys, polls, testimony, social media, and keeping an open dialogue throughout the session with "The Rundown," Carson City Alerts, real-time social media content, the Carson City Call and Paul Call, and our Carson City delegation. You told us what would happen if some of these bills passed, and we brought that to legislators, to the Governor's office, and to other business and trade organizations. Your feedback was invaluable in demonstrating to lawmakers the harm of these proposals. You helped amplify the voice of

business, whether by contacting a legislator directly, testifying, or engaging on social media. Your voice was heard, and your voice mattered during this legislative session. This major effort helped ensure that adverse legislation failed and did not become law.

There were some good bills that passed as well - legislation that will help Southern Nevada grow and prosper. Southern Nevada Forum priorities such as planning money for the College of Southern Nevada and Nevada State College Health Sciences Building and \$38 million in funding for the UNLV Medical School to help cover construction and operational costs were passed. These initiatives will help us train more doctors and expand our healthcare sector, which is good for economic growth.

The Metro Chamber thanks Governor Brian Sandoval and those legislators who stood with Nevada's employers, entrepreneurs and job creators this session. While the 2017 Legislature is over, our job is far from finished. We continue to be your champion – vigilant at every level of government to guard against proposals that could harm our economy and impede the success of your business. As we demonstrated in the Legislature and every day at the Metro Chamber, your voice matters. It's important to stay engaged and stay in the conversation. Thank you for standing with us and letting us be your voice.

Wake up your smart.



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Chamber News

Networking Power Lunch Returns to Downtown Summerlin!

The Metro Chamber's popular small-format networking series returns to Downtown Summerlin on Friday, July 14. Members are hosted in tables of 6-8 at different restaurants throughout Downtown Summerlin, and are led by a Chamber staff member or volunteer as table host for an hour of meaningful networking and relationship-building opportunities. Limited space is available for this luncheon program, and advanced registration is required. It is \$20 per person, exclusive to Chamber members, with reservations available at LVChamber.com.

Chamber U: Fall Semester Speaker Search

The Metro Chamber is searching for presenters for the fall 2017 semester of Chamber University. This is an opportunity for members to present on a topic about which they are subject matter experts, and present a 20-25 minute webinar to Chamber members. Chamber U is a webinar series aimed at highlighting the business information and resources Chamber members need to be successful. Past topics include Procurement 101, How to Become a Tweeting Machine, and Financial Strategies for your Business. Webinars are scheduled every Friday at 10:00 a.m., starting September 8. Webinars are recorded and housed on the members-only portal at LVChamber.com, and able to be viewed on the Chamber's YouTube channel. For more information, contact Danica Torchin at dtorchin@lvchamber.com.

Legislative Summary Book Coming Soon!

This month, be on the lookout for the Metro Chamber's comprehensive legislative summary book. This book will feature the areas of priority of the Metro Chamber for the 2017 Legislature, the bills in which the Chamber engaged, and their respective outcomes. The book will be available on LVChamber.com. For more information on the 2017 Legislature, please contact the Metro Chamber's Government Affairs team at 702.641.5822.

Business Excellence AWARDS

Submit Your Nominations Today for a Business Excellence Award!

The Metro Chamber and exclusive sponsor Nevada State Bank are looking for the best businesses in Las Vegas and want you to nominate your business or another great business for the annual Business Excellence Awards. The Business Excellence Awards recognize those businesses in the Valley that go above and beyond by blazing trails, creating groundbreaking ideas, and instilling a positive workplace culture that helps shape our community. Honorees are recognized and celebrated at the annual Business Excellence Awards Luncheon, happening Friday, October 19, at the Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas. For more information on the Business Excellence Awards and to nominate a business, visit LVChamber.com.

healthcareheroes2017

SAVETHEDATE!

August 30th
Southern Nevada

August 31st
Northern Nevada

This Fall, the 12th annual Healthcare Heroes event will honor 20 individuals that have contributed to the welfare of healthcare in our state. In conjunction with the event, *Nevada Business Magazine*, along with corporate sponsor Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, will publish a special report in the September issue featuring this year's Heroes who were chosen by a blue-ribbon panel of experts.

Mark your calendar and join us for the 2017 event!

**For more information about Healthcare Heroes
or to be a part of this special report,
go to nevadabusiness.com/events or call 702.267.6340.**

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News You Need



City of Las Vegas Launches **GeoCommons**, an Open Mapping Portal

The City of Las Vegas launched GeoCommons, a new public platform for exploring, visualizing, and downloading location-based open data. Only a handful of cities have made map-based data open to the public, and the effort solidifies the city's commitment to transparency. GeoCommons will be a single source for location information, provide details to support decision-making not only by city workers but by residents, business, and academia, as well. Users can share resources, collaborate, and use quantitative data to make decisions and conduct research. There is no cost to use the program. For more information, visit lasvegasnevada.gov.

Clark County **Air Quality Control** Board Seeking Board Members

Clark County Board of County Commissioners is seeking three members to serve three-year terms on the Air Pollution Control (APC) Hearing Board beginning as early as October 7, 2017. The APC Hearing Board is responsible for hearing appeals of air quality permitting and enforcement actions and acting on applications for exemptions and variances of regulatory requirements. Applicants must be residents of Nevada and may not be employees of the State of Nevada or any other political subdivision of the state. This is a voluntary appointment with no compensation. The APC Hearing Board generally meets four to six times a year. Applications are due Monday, July 31, at 4:00 p.m. For more information and to apply, visit clarkcountynv.gov/airquality.

BBB **Small Business Trends** Released

During Small Business Week, the Better Business Bureau released its list of small business trends to watch this year. They identify native advertising, the spending power of millennials, and technology driving innovation as three business trends to watch for the next year. BBB also states that while some marketing efforts tend to get messages lost in the clutter, it's important to focus on organic and personalized connections with customers. For more information on small business trends and to read the full release, visit bbb.org.

SBA Highlights Finding **Small Business Loans** Online

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is informing small businesses of the various ways to apply for loans online. The SBA touches on SBA loans, lines of credit, micro loans, and business credit cards, and charge cards. The SBA also discusses cash advances, and reminds business owners who have already been using products like Square or PayPal can apply for cash advances directly from their online account. For more on SBA financing resources online, visit sba.gov.

For Your Benefit

Kristin McMillan Launches New Social Media Show – “Like Nobody’s Business”

With the diversity, ingenuity, and creativity of the community in Southern Nevada, the Metro Chamber wanted to create a new outlet for showcasing business and community leaders who are doing great things and innovating to advance our community. This month, the Metro Chamber is proud to debut *Like Nobody’s Business*, a social media TV show hosted by Chamber president and CEO Kristin McMillan. Her first guest will be Mayor John Lee of the City of North Las Vegas, discussing the latest for the city and how to get involved with the exciting economic development efforts of the area.

Be sure to tune in to the Chamber’s social media channels (@LVChamber on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn) for the pilot episode, and subscribe to the Chamber’s YouTube channel for the latest episodes.



ONE OF A KIND SALE

It's our Anniversary Sale!
Shop brand-new arrivals
at super-sale prices.

July 21 – August 6

NORDSTROM

BUSINESS EXPO 2017

Business Expo 2017 welcomed about 1,700 business professionals from Southern Nevada to build their networks, see the latest in the Las Vegas market, enjoy a brand-new Happy Hour, sample from some of Las Vegas' most popular eateries, meet one-on-one with purchasing representatives in the Procurement Lounge, and take in the pop-up community atmosphere. Thank you to the sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees who made Business Expo 2017 such a success!







YOUR VOICE MATTERS:

Why Business Mattered in the 2017 Legislature

At the start of the 2017 legislative session, the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce set an agenda to protect the state's business community from harmful bills – ones that could have resulted in job losses, significantly stunted growth, and an environment that bucked against Nevada's long-standing reputation as a business-friendly state. "This session, we knew that we would have to reinforce the voice of business in the State Legislature and build the case as to why Nevada's businesses mattered and the contributions that they make every day to our state," says Hugh Anderson, Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee. "The Chamber's Government Affairs team had been monitoring bill draft requests for months, and everything we saw pointed to a potentially concerning outcome for Nevada's employers and entrepreneurs."

As the voice of business in Nevada, the Metro Chamber rallies to combat state policies that would harm economic growth and, conversely, champions legislation that will keep our state competitive, growing, and thriving. As stated in the legislative agenda for the 2017 session, *Why Business Matters*, "We are your eyes and ears and your boots on the ground against legislation that would hurt your future growth. We are on the lookout for bills that line up with what we stand for so we can support them and, to the contrary, go against what we stand for so we can fight them."

And fight is what we did.

The Metro Chamber's Government Affairs Committee set forth a broad agenda that spoke to four major principles the Chamber stands for, and convened other business associations and trade groups and gained bipartisan

support from legislators, municipalities, education institutions, and other key stakeholders to present a strong and unified voice for Nevada's employers: a message that said, very simply, that Nevada employers cannot continue to bear unnecessary burdens, and that Nevada must remain a competitive place to do business. The Metro Chamber's team in Carson City also kept in constant communication with Governor Sandoval's office, working collaboratively to address legislation and convey the business community's point-of-view. On several of Governor Sandoval's veto messages, the Metro Chamber was specifically mentioned as a resource for employer perspective.

"As I was installed as Chairman of the Board last year, I made a pledge to my fellow members that the Metro Chamber would work on your behalf every single day in Carson City to ensure no harm would come to this business community during the legislative session," says Bill Noonan, 2017 Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Metro Chamber. "We demonstrated to legislators and others that a strong, unified business community cannot – and will not – be divided. We are stronger than ever before and as a member of Metro Chamber, you can take great pride that this organization led that charge in Carson City. We showed why business matters, why you matter, and that your voice was heard."

"This session, we rallied our members to give us feedback on how some of these bills would impact them, including sending surveys and personally reaching out to those in industries that would be directly affected by some of this legislation," says Kristin McMillan, president and CEO of the Metro Chamber. "Our members' voices were heard in full force on issues such as mandatory paid sick leave and

increasing minimum wage, and it provided a critical piece of support as we fought to protect Nevada businesses."

The Metro Chamber employed several new tools and tactics to keep members apprised of what was happening at the Legislature and get their feedback on how specific bills would impact their business and employees. These new tools included the Carson City Call, a brand new monthly conference call with the Government Affairs team on the latest from the session; surveys to gauge potential impact of legislation; "The Rundown," the weekly email with a comprehensive update on legislation in which the Metro Chamber engaged during the week; the biannual Carson City member delegation, when members met with legislators and key policy personnel to discuss issues important to the business community; and the Paul Call, a biweekly conference call for President's Club members to weigh in and ask questions on legislation.

"In an effort to better understand the legislative process, I have taken advantage of the many ways the Chamber keeps its members apprised of developments in Carson City," says Gina Bongiovi, owner of Bongiovi Law Firm and Metro Chamber Trustee. "With the Carson City Call, the Paul Call, and traveling to Carson for Legislative Day with a contingent of other members, the Chamber has given me a close-up, if slightly disturbing, look at how the sausage is made. I've learned that, as a collaborative, industry-agnostic business organization, the Chamber wields a tremendous amount of influence with our legislators, and that the Government Affairs staff and volunteer Government Affairs committee dedicate a tremendous amount of time and energy to scouring all 1,000+ pieces of proposed legislation and polling us, as



“WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE TREMENDOUS LEADERSHIP THE LAS VEGAS METRO CHAMBER SHOWS EVERY SINGLE LEGISLATIVE SESSION. THEIR ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS EFFORTS MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE FOR OUR ENTIRE REGION – THEY ARE THE GLUE BINDING SO MANY OF THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR SOUTHERN NEVADA.”

- NORTH LAS VEGAS MAYOR JOHN LEE

members, for feedback. Were it not for the Chamber's efforts, we small business owners would have been saddled with more onerous regulations, business-killing fines and penalties, and a higher cost of doing business just as we are beginning to feel the economy recover.”

Ahead, you'll read about the business bills opposed by the Metro Chamber, as well as bills that the Metro Chamber championed for the state's future growth and opportunities. In total, the Chamber team spent more than 2,000 hours in Carson City defending the business community, tracking more than 560 bills and testifying on about 110. A full legislative summary report will be released in mid-July, but below is a highlight of the bills on which the Metro Chamber engaged.

BUSINESS BILLS OPPOSED BY THE METRO CHAMBER

ASSEMBLY BILL 175:

Prescribes Certain Requirements for Health Benefits for the Purpose of Determining the Minimum Wage Paid to Employees in Private Employment in this State

Assembly Bill 175 would have established a minimum level of specific health benefits that an employer would have been required to make available to an employee and his or her dependents to qualify for paying the lower minimum wage, currently \$7.25, provided in the Nevada Constitution. The Metro Chamber opposed this bill because the list of requirements would have potentially conflicted with product plans currently available to employers and employees and because of the uncertainty occurring at the federal level in terms of what healthcare networks may be available and what they may include. Governor Sandoval vetoed this bill.

SENATE BILL 106:

Requires Certain Increases in the Minimum Wage Paid to Employees in Private Employment in this State

Senate Bill 106 would have increased the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$11 an hour (if an employer offers health care) and \$8.25 to \$12 an hour (if an employer does not offer health care). The rates would have increased by \$0.75 each year until they reached the above thresholds. Any mandate in wage increase also means additional costs for employers at the state level such as the Modified Business Tax, unemployment insurance, and worker's compensation. The Metro Chamber opposed the bill because of increased costs to employers, the potential negative impact on job creation, and other potential consequences, such as the reduction of hours for employees, slowing down the hiring of new employees, increasing the price on goods or services or layoffs.

The Metro Chamber thanks the members who responded to the survey it deployed regarding the proposed increase to minimum wage and the impact it would have had on their business. The feedback gained from the survey proved to be an invaluable tool to educate legislators and other stakeholders about the unintended consequences of the bill.

SENATE BILL 196:

Requires an Employer in Private Employment to Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees Under Certain Circumstances

Senate Bill 196 would have required private employers to provide employees paid sick leave earned at a rate of not less than one hour per 30 hours worked. The Metro Chamber opposed this bill, as it would have greatly increased costs for employers, increased the burden and resources needed to comply with the reporting requirements and record keeping for possible inspection, and concerns about mandating the implementation of these requirements. The Governor vetoed this bill.

The Metro Chamber also deployed a survey to members regarding the impact of this bill. While many employers already offer a paid sick leave program as part of their regular benefits, many small employers asserted that

the bill, as proposed, would have forced them to reduce hours for their employees, and also may have resulted in hiring freezes, layoffs, and closing their doors for good. Again, the feedback provided by members proved critical in discussions with legislators.

**SENATE BILL 397:
Revises Provisions Relating to Employment**

Senate Bill 397 would have changed the law relating to provisions governing the filing of complaints by an employee who alleges a practice of unlawful discrimination in compensation by an employer. The bill would have added unreasonable burdens to existing requirements by giving greater authority to the Nevada Equal Rights Commission (NERC) to award back pay for a period beginning two years before the date of the filing of a complaint regarding an unlawful employment practice and ending on the date the Commission issues an order regarding the complaint; award costs and reasonable attorney's fees in cases involving an unlawful employment practice; order payment of compensatory damages or, if the employer acted with malice or reckless indifference, punitive damages in cases involving an unlawful employment practice relating to discrimination on the basis of sex. The Metro Chamber opposed the bill because it would have overreached in giving increased authority to the NERC and in increasing costs of litigation, together with the burden placed on employers relative to changes in the current complaint process. The Governor vetoed the bill.

**SMALL BUSINESS BILLS SUPPORTED
BY THE METRO CHAMBER**

These bills represent opportunities for growth, diversification, and keeping local money local: central tenets of what the Chamber stands for on behalf of its members. The Metro Chamber was proud to support these bills at the 2017 Legislature alongside other stakeholders and partners throughout the state.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 94:
Repeals the Prospective Expiration of the
NV Grow Program**

During the 2015 legislative session, the Governor's Office of Economic Development was directed to create a two-year pilot program designed to help grow companies currently conducting business in Nevada by emphasizing information technology as a strategy for economic development and growth. Assembly Bill 94 will extend the program. The Metro Chamber supported AB 94 as economic growth and the diversification of Nevada's economy are longstanding priorities for the Metro Chamber. Governor Sandoval signed the bill into law.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 280:
Revises Provisions Relating to Preferences in Bidding
for Certain Contracts for Businesses Based in this State**





Assembly Bill 280 creates a preference of five percent for a bid or proposal for a state purchasing contract which is submitted by a Nevada-based business. The business must certify that its principal place of business is in this State or a majority of the goods provided for in a state purchasing contract are produced in Nevada. Additionally, AB 280 prohibits the preference for the award of any contract which uses federal money, unless such a preference is authorized by federal law. The Metro Chamber supported this bill, as keeping procurement opportunities within the state is longstanding priority for the organization. At the beginning of the session, the Metro Chamber identified keeping local money local as one of its four principles of this legislative session.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 436:
Revises Provisions Governing Small Business Loans**

Assembly Bill 436 will require eligible local emerging small businesses to be provided information regarding public and private programs to provide financing to small businesses, as well as the criteria for obtaining said financing. Additionally, AB 436 will also require the Secretary of State to include on the form for an application for the issuance or renewal of a state business registration an opportunity for the applicant to indicate whether the applicant's business is a minority-owned business or a woman-owned business. If the applicant indicates that the business is a minority-owned business or a woman-owned business, the Secretary of State would be required to provide information concerning how the person may become certified as a disadvantaged business enterprise for certain purposes related to contracting for transportation projects

and qualifying for loans to disadvantaged business enterprises. The Metro Chamber supported this bill, as it would allow more opportunities for small businesses to obtain loans, as well as opportunities to contract with government entities.

**SENATE BILL 126:
Establishes a Program to Provide Loans to Certain Small Businesses Owned by Minorities and Women**

Senate Bill 126 creates a two-year pilot program to provide loans to Nevada's small, minority, and woman-owned businesses in the state through the Governor's Office of Economic Development. A total of \$1 million will be made available to small businesses through this program. The Metro Chamber supported this bill because of the positive impact it would likely have on economic development, and job and business growth by small, minority, and woman-owned businesses in Nevada.

SOUTHERN NEVADA FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

The Southern Nevada Forum emerged prior to the start of the 2013 legislative session by a group of Southern Nevada legislators, local elected officials, business leaders, and community stakeholders to help develop community engagement, understanding, and unified support for legislative matters that were important to Southern Nevada.

Since that time, the Southern Nevada Forum has worked with the local community on a variety of legislative areas to move our region forward. Areas include K-12



education, higher education, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure, good governance, and economic development and workforce. Below are several bills that emerged from the Southern Nevada Forum and have been signed into law by the Governor. The full list of priorities and final actions of those bills can be accessed at SouthernNevadaForum.com.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 98:
Revises Provisions Governing the Office of Grant
Procurement, Coordination and Management of the
Department of Administration**

Assembly Bill 98 modifies the enabling language for the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination, and Management (Nevada Grants Office), to provide flexibility for the Office to employ the number of positions deemed necessary, and within the limits of money appropriated or authorized through the budget process, and removes the requirement for the Office to prioritize grants for any certain department. The Metro Chamber supported this bill, as Nevada currently ranks last in terms of returning dollars to the State from Washington D.C., excluding Medicaid dollars. AB 98 will help facilitate the process for enabling more dollars to return to Nevada, and was identified by the Metro Chamber at the beginning of the session as one of its major governance priorities.

John Ritter, chairman of the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance and Council for a Better Nevada, states, “Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Metro Chamber for their partnership in helping support AB 98 and additional investment in Nevada’s information technology, which will help ensure that Nevada receives

its fair share of federal grant investment. Our successful legislative efforts put Nevada on the path to securing hundreds of millions of dollars in new grant funding over the coming decade that can be used to address some of our most pressing issues, including education and infrastructure, as well as fuel the economy and improve our overall quality of life.”

**ASSEMBLY BILL 108:
Provides for the Periodic Review of Medicaid
Reimbursement Rates**

Assembly Bill 108 requires the state to review Medicaid reimbursements rates every four years. The Metro Chamber supported the bill because these types of rate reimbursements need to be reviewed on a periodic basis to maintain accuracy for changing healthcare needs.

**SENATE BILL 149:
Revises Provisions Governing Regional
Transportation Commissions**

Senate Bill 149 will enable the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) to broaden the scope of transportation projects that could be undertaken by the RTC, such as the ability to construct and operate high capacity transit systems; fund, research and develop projects relating to autonomous vehicles; and add additional tools to implement innovative technologies. The Metro Chamber supported this bill, as transportation infrastructure innovation and investment are a longstanding priority.

Says Tina Quigley, RTC general manager, “The 2017 legislative session advanced transportation

"AS THE OWNER OF A FAMILY-OWNED RESTAURANT, I ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES TO JOIN THE METRO CHAMBER EVERY DAY BECAUSE OF THE STRONG VOICE THAT THEY PROVIDE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE. THE METRO CHAMBER FOUGHT FOR ME AND MY BUSINESS AGAINST BURDENSOME REGULATIONS AND COSTLY MANDATES THAT WOULD HAVE HARMED ME AND MY EMPLOYEES. OUR VOICE WAS HEARD IN CARSON CITY BECAUSE OF THE METRO CHAMBER."

- THE HONORABLE LORRAINE HUNT BONO, OWNER, BOOTLEGGER BISTRO

policies that will help Southern Nevada build a world class transportation system. As Southern Nevada experiences increased growth in businesses, residents, and visitors, this will place an unsustainable demand on our transportation infrastructure. We are extremely grateful for our partnership with the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce, our elected officials, business community, and stakeholders, which led to the passage of these transportation bills that will help us modernize our infrastructure, strengthen our place in the global economy, and improve our quality of life for our residents."

**SENATE BILL 516:
Revises Provisions Governing Workforce Innovation
and Apprenticeships**

Senate Bill 516 will transfer the administration of the apprenticeship program of the State of Nevada from the Labor Commissioner to the Office of Workforce Innovation, in addition to placing the State Apprenticeship Council within the Office of Workforce Innovation. The Metro Chamber supported this bill, as it would allow for additional workforce development functions, including apprenticeships, to be housed within the Office of Workforce Innovation.

**SENATE BILL 546:
Authorizes and Provides Funding for Certain Projects
of Capital Improvement**

Senate Bill 546 implements a \$346 million capital improvement program, which includes about \$48 million in general fund. This bill also included money for planning money for the joint health sciences building for Nevada State College and College of Southern Nevada. Says Dr. Michael Richards, president of the College of Southern Nevada, "This project was not included in the Governor's original budget and your organization

and its support of the Southern Nevada Forum helped call policymakers' attention to the important need for this building and the additional highly skilled health professionals it will introduce into our region. The roles of the Southern Nevada Forum and Metro Chamber during the legislative session cannot be overstated."

Some of the projects include:

- \$1.5 million to plan an additional housing unit at Southern Desert Correctional Center
- \$3.5 million to plan an education building at Nevada State College
- \$33 million to build a Northern Nevada Veterans Home
- \$6 million to bring the Northern Nevada Correctional Center in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- \$6.2 million to renovate a housing unit at Southern Desert Correctional Center
- \$1.4 million for furnishings and equipment for the UNLV Hotel College
- \$4.3 million for Stewart Indian School welcome centers
- \$41.5 million in general obligation bonds for an engineering building at the University of Nevada, Reno
- \$1 million for advanced planning of a health sciences building at the College of Southern Nevada
- 34.2 million for a National Guard Readiness Center

SENATE BILL 553:

Authorizes and Provides Funding for the Advance Planning of the College of Engineering, Academic and Research Building and to Complete Planning and Begin Construction of a New Building for the Medical School at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Senate Bill 553 provides funding for planning dollars in the amount of \$1.75 million for a new engineering building at UNLV and provides a match fund of \$25 million to the UNLV School of Medicine building project. The Metro Chamber supported this bill to strengthen economic development efforts in engineering and healthcare in Southern Nevada, as it has been a longtime and staunch advocate of the medical school.

"The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce continues to be a tremendous advocate for UNLV and we are grateful for the Chamber's support at the 2017 State Legislature. Partnerships with the business community are critical in helping achieve our goal to become one of the top public university's in the country," says Len Jessup, UNLV president. "Our collaborative relationship with the Chamber is a testament to Kristin (McMillan) and the entire leadership team who understand the economic impact of a vibrant, comprehensive research university."

WHAT COMES NEXT?

The Metro Chamber thanks Governor Sandoval for his leadership, the legislators who stood with the business community, other chambers of commerce, business associations, trade groups, and members who engaged and aligned their voice with others to prove that together, united, the Nevada business community is a strong, committed, and powerful voice for our community and Nevada's future.

The work doesn't stop here, however. In the interim, the Southern Nevada Forum will convene, and the Metro Chamber will begin to work towards ensuring that pro-prosperity candidates are represented in the 2018 elections. Policy committees will continue to meet to discuss important issues with in the business community, such as health care, education, and transportation. And the Metro Chamber will continue to be a vigilant voice for the community in upcoming ballot measures and will continue to be a leader in the dialogue in the interim to ensure that, as legislative priorities are developed, they align with those of Nevada's employers.

Here are a few things you can do:

- **Contribute to BizPAC**, the Metro Chamber's bipartisan political action committee. Hundreds of members support this PAC to ensure the business community's interests remain in front of elected officials. Contributions help elect pro-prosperity candidates and ensure a business-friendly operating environment. For more information or to donate, visit LVChamber.com.
- **Participate**. Join a Chamber policy committee, and encourage your employees to do the same. Policy committees meet quarterly. For more information on upcoming meetings, visit LVChamber.com.
- **Engage on social media**. The Chamber will continue posting relevant legislative updates and content on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube – be sure to follow us @lvchamber.
- **Read "The Rundown."** The popular government affairs enewsletter returns every other Friday, and will keep members updated on relevant local, state, and federal issues important to Nevada's employers and entrepreneurs.



Photo credit: UNLV

What's Happening

PLACES TO BE. PEOPLE TO MEET. THINGS TO KNOW. IN **JULY**.

Bigwig Lunch Time with Mayor Carolyn Goodman

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

Networking Power Lunch at Downtown Summerlin

FRIDAY, JULY 14

5

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5 CHAMBER VOICES TOASTMASTERS

Become a better speaker and a more effective presenter by joining Chamber Voices Toastmasters. Open to all members. Please note Wednesday meeting time due to July 4 holiday.

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
575 Symphony Park Ave., Ste. 100
\$63 every six months. Guests always complimentary.

6

THURSDAY, JULY 6 CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

Chamber Connections is a dedicated leads group comprised of professionals from a variety of industries. The group helps professionals grow their business through networking and by sharing contacts, referrals and ideas. Please note Thursday meeting time due to July 4 holiday.

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
575 Symphony Park Ave., Ste. 100
Contact agoldberg@lvchamber.com or call 702.641.5822 for space availability and cost.

10

MONDAY, JULY 10 TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Join the Metro Chamber and Noah Hoefs, constructions manager for Hyperloop One, as he gives updates to this committee on the ways Hyperloop is preparing to move people and things.

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
575 Symphony Park Ave., Ste. 100
Complimentary and exclusive to Metro Chamber members and their employees.

10

MONDAY, JULY 10 VEGAS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TOASTMASTERS

The VYP Toastmasters group is for all members to aid in the development of speaking, presentation, and leadership skills.

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
575 Symphony Park Ave., Ste. 100
Complimentary for guests
\$65 to join, \$54 every 6 months.

12

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 NEW! CHAMBER CONNECTIONS II

The Metro Chamber has recently formed a second club of its popular Chamber Connections leads group, comprised of professionals from a variety of industries. The group helps professionals grow their business through networking and by sharing contacts, referrals and ideas.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
575 Symphony Park Ave., Ste. 100
Contact vkelly@lvchamber.com or call 702.641.5822 for space availability and cost.

00 - CHAMBER EVENT

00 - VYP EVENT

How to Register:

Visit LVChamber.com and
click on the Events Calendar.

Call 702.641.5822.

July Sponsors:



12

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 VEGAS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BIGWIG LUNCH TIME: MAYOR CAROLYN GOODMAN

Each BigWig Lunch Time (BLT) features one of Las Vegas' most influential community figures. Carolyn Goodman began serving in her current office in 2011, and prior to that, founded the Meadows School, planning and overseeing the school's operations for more than 25 years. As Mayor, she has championed improvement in inner-city schools, brought together nonprofit organizations in the community, and works to advocate for the \$4.9 billion tourism industry in the region.

11:30 a.m. - Noon Registration & Networking
Noon - 1:00 p.m. Program

Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce
575 Symphony Park Ave., Ste. 100

Exclusive to VYP members: \$15 in advance, \$20 day of event and at the door

Presenting Sponsors: Station Casinos, UNLV Lee Business School Executive MBA Program, UnitedHealthcare
Series Sponsor: Geotab

Media Partner: Kristina Alexis Photography

14

FRIDAY, JULY 14 NETWORKING POWER LUNCH AT DOWNTOWN SUMMERLIN

Connect with fellow Chamber members and network in a more intimate atmosphere while enjoying the ambiance of Downtown Summerlin. Each location offers an all-inclusive \$20 prix fixe two-course lunch menu as you get to know your fellow members.

11:30 a.m. - Noon: Registration and Networking
Noon - 1:00 p.m.: Lunch and Conversation

Downtown Summerlin
1980 Festival Plaza Dr.

\$20 - Chamber member-exclusive. Advanced registration is required.

18

TUESDAY, JULY 18 CHAMBER VOICES TOASTMASTERS See July 5

18

TUESDAY, JULY 18 CHAMBER CONNECTIONS See July 6

20

THURSDAY, JULY 20 VEGAS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FUSION MIXER AT ELYSIAN AT STONELAKE

Connect with your fellow VYPeeps and beat the Las Vegas heat during the next Fusion Mixer at Elysian at Stonelake. Mingle, build relationships, and take home some swag as you enjoy Elysian's super chic, architecturally unique lounge room overlooking the pool.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Elysian at Stonelake

1445 Stonelake Cove Ave.

In advance: \$10 - members, \$15 - non-members

Day of event and at the door: \$15 - members, \$20 - non-members

Presenting Sponsors: Station Casinos, UNLV Lee Business School Executive MBA Program, UnitedHealthcare
Media Partner: Kristina Alexis Photography

24

MONDAY, JULY 24 VEGAS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TOASTMASTERS See July 10

26

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26 CHAMBER CONNECTIONS II See July 12

Leadership Las Vegas Class of 2016 Builds Buddy Benches At Local Schools

T

here are times when everyone could use a buddy. That's especially true for young students in elementary school who sometimes are uncomfortable in unstructured social situations. Leadership Las Vegas Class of 2016 realized this and,

after learning about the Buddy Bench program, chose to step up and, through their class project, help eliminate this fear for students.

Each Leadership Las Vegas and Leadership Advance class selects a class project to better the community and put to work the information, knowledge, and resources of the class members. Leadership Las Vegas is a flagship program of the Leadership Foundation of Greater Las Vegas, an affiliate of the Metro Chamber.

The Leadership Las Vegas Class of '16 decided that providing benches to several Clark County School District schools would be an ideal final project, delivering a community benefit for years to come by helping students bridge barriers to friendship.

The class turned to Bank of Nevada, Findlay Automotive, MGM Resorts International, and Summerlin® as corporate sponsors to underwrite the cost to install Buddy Benches at 10 Valley elementary schools.

The installation of a Buddy Bench at an elementary school also includes a student assembly, where members of the Class of 2016 take part in a skit illustrating a playground scenario that shows students how the Buddy Bench works. Students are empowered by knowing what the bench is for, how it should be used, and the appropriate action if they see a student on the bench.

Principal Kim Cunningham of Goolsby Elementary School, which will be home to two Buddy Benches, says the benches will serve an important purpose at the school. "It gives students a safe place to go if they are feeling left out or if they feel like they don't have a friend. Conversely, it gives students the opportunity to build empathy towards others and recognize when they need to be a friend. Hopefully, the Buddy Bench will help encourage students to show kindness towards each other."



Buddy Benches are aimed at preventing loneliness, which can be common among young children. A 2004 study done in London found as many as 80 percent of kids between 8 and 10 years old described being lonely at some point in elementary school. Hollingsworth Elementary School principal Katie Decker says the Buddy Bench helps reinforce lessons that students are already being exposed to at school. "At Hollingsworth, we spend a lot of time teaching students how we want them to treat others, as well as to learn that we should always be kind to one another," she says. "These are lessons we want to constantly reinforce, and by having a designated spot on the playground and in the school, these Buddy Benches help us do that."

The schools which will eventually all have Buddy Benches include John Hummel, Walter Bracken, Judy & John Goolsby, Walter Long, Howard Hollingsworth, Sue Morrow, Doris French, Arturo Cambeiro, Sandy Searles Miller, and Twin Lakes Elementary Schools.

Perhaps the most telling example of the Buddy Bench program success is a fifth grader who says, "The Buddy Bench really allows the kids to come together and makes us all see we can all be friends. I really think it's great that there is a group of people who sponsored this project."

Liberty Leavitt, Class of 2016 class member and graduation initiative coordinator for the School-Community Partnership Program for Clark County School District, summarizes, "It's exciting to see the buddy bench in action where students invite a student on the buddy bench to participate in various playground activities. The students have embraced the Buddy Bench idea. Our recently donated Buddy Bench promotes an awareness of inclusiveness, promotes friendships, and ensures that every student has a place on the playground."

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President's Club

(B) Dr. Heath Wills
COO – Assurity Labs

With an extensive history in technical, actuarial, and medical sciences, Dr. Heath Wills has a strong understanding and desire to improve not only the delivery but also the practice of medicine. He is Board-certified in anesthesiology and addiction medicine, and has practiced medicine for more than 15 years and enjoys establishing collaborative efforts with other industry partners to pioneer improvement in the healthcare space.

(A) Karla Perez
Regional Vice President –
Valley Health System

Karla Perez serves as the regional vice president of Universal Health Services. In her current role, she provides oversight to the operations of Spring Valley, Summerlin, Desert Springs, Valley, Centennial Hills Hospital Medical Centers in Las Vegas, and Henderson Hospital in Henderson, as well as Northern Nevada Medical Center in Sparks, Nevada. Perez has worked in the Las Vegas community for more than 35 years. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce.



(D) Ron Lurie
Executive Vice President and
General Manager –
Arizona Charlie's Hotel & Casino

Ron Lurie has been a resident of Las Vegas for 50 years. During his 40 years in the gaming industry, Lurie has been involved in the development and growth of the Las Vegas community. He served 14 years as a Las Vegas city councilman and four years as mayor. These positions have enhanced Lurie's ability to understand and appreciate the gaming industry, as well as the desire to ensure that Las Vegas continues to be one of the fastest growing communities in the country.

(C) Denise C. Mora
Vice President, Nevada/Southern Utah Division – America First Credit Union

With over three decades of experience in the financial industry, Denise C. Mora is responsible for the executive oversight of the Nevada and Southern Utah Division branch operations for America First Credit Union. Mora earned a bachelor's degree in business from National American University and is also a graduate of the University of New Mexico Anderson Banking School of Management and Western Credit Union Management School, Pomona, California. She has been awarded the prestigious Rising Star Award from *Las Vegas Business Press* and was recently named as a board member of the Sunrise Children's Foundation in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Spotlights

(E) Kevin T. Orrock

President, Summerlin – The Howard Hughes Corporation

The Howard Hughes Corporation owns, manages, and develops commercial, residential, and mixed-use real estate to include master planned communities in Maryland, Texas, and Nevada and development opportunities in 18 states. As president of Summerlin, Kevin T. Orrock oversees all aspects of implementation of the Summerlin community development. Summerlin is home to more than 100,000 residents and boasts its own 106-acre fashion, dining, and entertainment destination – Downtown Summerlin. Orrock began his career with Howard Hughes in 1974. He holds a BS in business administration from Wittenberg University and an MBA from UNLV.



(F) Tim Oudman

Market Vice President – Republic Services

Tim Oudman, market vice president for Republic Services in Nevada, is responsible for a 1,300-person team that delivers recycling and waste services to 500,000+ customers in Southern Nevada. Oudman has worked for Republic Services for 20 years, holding various leadership roles in both field operating and corporate oversight positions. In working with government officials across multiple states, he has enhanced relationships between the public and private sector, helping facilitate economic development projects along the way. Tim earned a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration from Indiana University and an MBA from Purdue University's Krannert School of Management.

(G) Chris Way

VP/General Manager – KTNV-TV 13 Action News

Chris Way is VP/general manager of KTNV-TV, 13 Action News, an E.W. Scripps company. He oversees all business and operations activities of Las Vegas' ABC affiliate. Way recently returned to Las Vegas after a short stint at KMTV-TV, the Scripps-owned CBS affiliate in Omaha, Nebraska, where he served as general manager. Previously, he worked at KLAS-TV and is looking forward to re-engaging with business and community partners. Way has held volunteer roles with the United Way of Southern Nevada, the Nellis Support Team, and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District Foundation.



(H) Scott White

Regional Director – AMR & MedicWest Ambulance

Scott White is the regional director of Nevada for AMR and MedicWest Ambulance. He oversees operations serving the communities of North Las Vegas, Las Vegas, and Clark County. Coming from the L.A. market, Scott has more than 20 years of experience in EMS leadership. Before joining AMR, Scott served as a Navy Hospital Corpsman. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada. In his spare time, he spends time with his family trying new recipes and volunteers at his church, St. Francis of Assisi.



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Broadcasters Association
Presents the 22nd
Hall of
Fame Gala*

*An Evening
with Cir Kish*



Honoring

President's Award: Switch

Community Achievement Award: Billy & Rosemary Vassiliadis

Lifetime Achievement Award: Todd Brown - KVVU Fox 5

Hall of Fame Inductees: The Class of 2017

When: Saturday, August 19, 2017

Where: The Four Seasons Las Vegas

3960 Las Vegas Blvd South

Las Vegas, NV 89119

*What: 5:30pm Cocktails & Silent Auction
7:00pm Dinner & Program*

Black Tie Optional

For more information and to secure your sponsorship and ads, contact:

Mary Beth Sewald

Cell: 775-857-7491

MaryBeth@nevadabroadcasters.org

Eric Bonnici

Cell: 702-768-6243

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Member News

RED - PRESIDENT'S CLUB MEMBER



Community Service

Dickinson Wright PLLC participated in the 8th Annual Autism 5K Race for Hope & Fun Walk to celebrate Autism Awareness Month. The event was held at **Town Square** and supported the **Grant a Gift Autism Foundation**.

Clark County Credit Union celebrated National Nurses Week by awarding more than 25 local nurses with prizes including free spa days, gift cards, and travel. This year's grand prize of \$1,000 in travel vouchers went to Florecita Martinez, a registered nurse with University Medical Center of Southern Nevada.

America First Credit Union sponsored a team of employees to walk in the **Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure** in Downtown Las Vegas as part of its Greater Good employee volunteer program.

Congratulations

Cox Communications ranked 18th on the 2017 DiversityInc's Top 50 Companies for Diversity list. Cox was also recognized as eighth among the Top 13 Diversity Councils and 13th on the Top 15 Companies for Mentoring list.

MountainView Hospital earned a distinguished three-star rating from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons for its patient care and outcomes in isolated coronary artery bypass grafting procedures, making it elite among heart bypass surgery in the United States and Canada.

Fisher Phillips has been named the top labor and employment law firm in the United States in a survey of readers of *Corporate Counsel* magazine. The law firm was ranked first for labor and employment law on the 2017 "Best of Corporate Counsel" list.

Karl Riley, civil litigation attorney with **Snell & Wilmer**, was selected as the 2017 Young Lawyer of the Year by the State Bar of Nevada.

Michael Buckley and Jeffrey Zucker, shareholders with **Fennemore Craig**, were recognized by Chambers USA 2017, a prominent and prestigious annual ranking of law firms and attorneys.

Gina Bongiovi, owner and corporate consigliere of **Bongiovi Law Firm**, was named to **Nevada Business Magazine's** 2017 Legal Elite as one of Nevada's top attorneys.

Monica Harrison, an employee with **Opportunity Village**, was presented with the Tom Miller Advocacy Award at SourceAmerica's Achievement Awards Banquet that took place in New Orleans. The award recognizes an employee with a significant disability who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and remarkable passion for self-advocacy.

The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce is proud to provide members with a place to publish their current announcements as a benefit of membership. Email news items to pr@lvchamber.com or fax to Public Relations at 702.735.0320.

Announcements



Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada hired oncologist-hematologist Stephani Christensen to treat patients with cancer and serious blood disorders.

Terry Downey was named president and COO of the **SLS Las Vegas**. Downey is a 15-year veteran of **Station Casinos**, and was most recently president and general manager of **Aliante Gaming**.



DC Building Group hired new employees: project director Mike Cook; project manager Ryan Plutchak; and superintendent Pat Warren.

Upcoming Events

Summerlin® hosts its 23rd annual Patriotic Parade on Tuesday, July 4, at 9:00 a.m., on Hills Center Drive. Residents are invited to show their colors at the parade and take in more than 70 entries, including marching bands, floats, giant inflatable balloons, and storybook characters. For more information, visit summerlin.com.

Wheeling and Dealing

Shawn Danoski, CEO of **DC Building Group**, announced that the general contractor has been retained by Naqvi Injury Law to complete an office expansion and renovation.

MDL Group represented Robinson Bright in the lease of 2,402-square-feet of office space, located at 4966 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 100.

HOW DO YOU REWARD GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE?



Customer Service Excellence is a free turnkey program that helps you recognize the customer service all-stars in your business.

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PC - President's Club **\$** - Chamber Member Discount



CLARK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY AND ALLIANCE

Clark County Medical Society and Alliance commemorated the opening of its new building, located at 2590 E. Russell Rd. Mayor Carolyn Goodman was one of the dignitaries attending, including many of its partners in the medical community. Visit clarkcountymedical.org.



LYFT LAS VEGAS

PC

Lyft Las Vegas debuted its brand new hub, located at 7255 S. Tenaya Way, Ste. 300A. This is the official headquarters for all Lyft executives and drivers. It offers in-person troubleshooting, recruiting, and education resources for Lyft drivers. Lyft is one of the fastest growing ride-share companies in the U.S. Visit lyft.com.



CAPSTONE RISK MANAGEMENT INSURANCE

Capstone Risk Management Insurance celebrated its 20-year anniversary with elected officials, partners, and clients in the Las Vegas community. Capstone Brokerage is a risk management, insurance, and employee benefits firm dedicated to exceeding the expectations of its clients. Call 702.227.5727 or visit capstonebrokerage.com.



FINGERPRINTING EXPRESS

Fingerprinting Express announced its fourth location in Nevada and first in Las Vegas. It offers electronic Livescan, criminal history background checks, secure document shredding, photo service for passports, visas, immigration, and business purposes, notary public, copy, and fax services. Call or visit fingerprintingexpress.com.



JDOG JUNK REMOVAL

JDog Junk Removal announced its grand opening with friends, family, and the Metro Chamber. It is a residential and commercial junk removal business. The company is proudly owned by a veteran. Call 702.539.8748 or visit jdogjunkremoval.com.



NV ENERGY STAR PARTNERS GREEN ALLIANCE

NV Energy Star Partners Green Alliance celebrated Earth Day in Downtown Summerlin with GREENFest. GREENFest brings together Southern Nevada's sustainable community to gather in one location to inform and educate the public. For more information, visit greenalliancenv.org.

SPONSORED BY:



To arrange your ribbon cutting, contact Georgia Allen at 702.586.3838 or email gallen@lvchamber.com



AMERICAN RED CROSS

American Red Cross commemorated its dedication ceremony for its new Red Cross of Southern Nevada Bloodmobile. The Bloodmobile was made possible by donations from the Engelstad Family Foundation. Call 702.791.3311 or visit redcross.org/nv/las-vegas.



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BLACK BEAR DINER

Black Bear Diner, founded in 1995, is a fast-growing, community-oriented, family dining concept that offers a one-of-a-kind experience in a fun, bear-themed atmosphere. Black Bear Diner was born from a desire to bring home-style comfort food classics and personal service back to the dining experience. Visit blackbeardiner.com.



NEVADA FERTILITY INSTITUTE

Nevada Fertility Institute was founded to provide residents of Las Vegas with a local home for world-class fertility care. It offers patients extensive service options including in vitro fertilization, preimplantation genetic testing (PGT), elective egg freezing, donors, surrogates, and fertility preservation for oncology patients. Visit fertilitynevada.com.



WESTSTAR CREDIT UNION

Weststar Credit Union celebrated 42 years and its grand reopening at 8872 S. Eastern Ave., Ste. 102. Weststar Credit Union is owned and operated by its members for the benefit of the members. Membership is open to anyone employed in the gaming industry of Nevada, and many other employer groups. Visit weststarcu.com.

PC



MAGNOLIA PET WELLNESS CENTER

Dr. Barbier practices integrative medicine: a combination of traditional Chinese veterinary medicine and conventional Western medicine to diagnose and treat her patients, including acupuncture, essential oil therapy, herbal therapy, and food therapy. Call 702.570.6411 or visit magnoliapetwc.com.

VACATION DAYS COST MORE THAN YOU THINK:

How Project Time Off Seeks to Break the Habit of Unused PTO

E

very year, 662 million vacation days throughout the United States go unused. Employees forfeited 206 million vacation days last year that could not be rolled over, paid out, or used for another benefit, adding up to more than \$66 billion in

forfeited benefits, or \$604 per worker. They sit, expire, and lead to unintended consequences that lead to less productivity and overall happiness, as well as negative changes to our health.

People don't take vacation for myriad of reasons, including not wanting to be burdened by a pile of work when they return, no one else being able to do their work while they're gone, wanting to show complete dedication, and difficulty to take vacation with seniority. And while most executives and HR professionals recognize the importance of taking time off, the work martyr complex is reinforced by company culture not recognizing hours available, discouraging time off, or creating a culture of silence.

The U.S. Travel Association, to encourage people to take their days and continue to support the travel and tourism industry, has led the charge behind Project Time Off. Now with hundreds of large stakeholders across the

U.S., including the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the initiative is making headway. A jump in vacation usage from 16.2 to 16.8 days equaled a \$37 billion impact to the U.S. economy. The effects of more vacation days – and those planning more vacations – especially hits home in areas where travel and tourism is a driver of the economy, like Southern Nevada.

The benefits of taking days extend beyond economic: an uptick in workplace productivity, a more positive attitude towards work, increased happiness, improved mental and physical health, better relationships and social life, more work-life balance, and for employers, it may decrease workers' compensation claims due to fewer accidents blamed on burn-out, overwork, and stress.

Project Time Off and its coalition partners have assembled resources and a collection of media on how to encourage employees to take their vacation days, even just an additional day here and there, as well as research on the economic impact of Americans taking more of their earned vacation days, ramifications if they do not, and how organizations that have implemented workplace culture initiatives to entice workers to use their time. For more information and to implement an initiative in your business, visit projecttimeoff.com.



Large Vision Business Network Mixer

Come and celebrate with us!

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 / 6 PM - 9 PM

Suncoast Hotel & Casino, Grand Ballroom

11th Kick-Off Expo Year Anniversary

2017 Visionary
Awards

**Champagne Toast / Appetizers / Cake
Business Exhibits / Live Entertainment**

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to the newest members of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce. Please be sure to meet them at an upcoming event, or check out their business online at LVChamber.com on the member directory.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB:

RAIDERS
raiderson.com

11 Insight
3D Exhibits
A1 Office Solutions
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Arthouse Design Studio
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Budget Rental Car & Truck Las Vegas
Charles Schwab Bank
City Wide Home Loans
Complete Medical Consultants

Furniture Fashions 3
Gallagher Construction
Helping Other People Excel, LLC (H.O.P.E.)
ICE Creative LED
Infinity Concierge Services
James P. Prather LLC
MC Carrier LLC
Minuteman Press
Nail Society
Nevada Association of Employers
Nevada Sign Association

Polar Shades
Preston Agency Inc.
Ray Auto
Regenexx
Saber Security of Southern Nevada LLC
Sunbelt Rentals
Sunbelt Rentals
The Body Connection
Vegas Granite and Marble
Virgil's Real Barbeque
Yogafit Training Systems
Worldwide Inc

Members joined from May 15, 2017 to June 15, 2017

A woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a patterned top, is smiling and looking at a tablet held by a man. The man is wearing a light-colored shirt and a dark vest. They are in a modern, brightly lit office or business environment. The image has a teal overlay.

HOW DOES
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EMBRACING INNOVATION?
GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?**

Tell the Metro Chamber how your business stands out in the marketplace and it could win a Business Excellence Award (BizE). Nominations are open now through July 31.

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Celebrate the honorees at the annual
Business Excellence Awards Luncheon
Friday, October 19
Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas



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Vegas Young Professionals

Presenting Sponsors



Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

BIGWIG LUNCH

TIME WITH MAYOR

CAROLYN GOODMAN

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Exclusive to VYP

members: \$15 per person
in advance, \$20 at the
door

THURSDAY, JULY 20

FUSION MIXER

ELYSIAN AT

STONELAKE

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

In advance:

\$10 – members

\$15 – non-members

At the door/day of:

\$15 – members

\$20 – non-members

**Register for these events
at VegasYP.com.**

Happy Travels!

By: Savannah Mercier, VYP Member

Everyone needs a summer getaway. Whether you sneak off for “me” time, visit friends or family, discover somewhere new, or catch a staycation, recharging your batteries is essential to beating burn-out and staying at the top of your game. It doesn’t matter how much you love your job, everyone deserves a break to catch their breath. Not only is it fun to take a vacation, traveling can be beneficial to your work and health.

FIND INSPIRATION

In the movies, when brilliant artists and writers have trouble finding inspiration, a common theme is to leave their space and go to a new one, like taking a walk down the street, or traveling to a new place to gain new perspective. Traveling is great for boosting creativity, because you can see things in a new light. When you travel, your open to new creative experiences. If you have some sort of problem and you can only see a few options, try taking a weekend vacation to open your eyes to creative solutions.

GET CULTURE

In marketing, demographics are everything. Knowing your audience and target market is a major reason why companies become so successful. International corporations know that what works in the U.S. won’t necessarily work in other parts of the world. Markets, audiences, strategies and segments vary from country to country, so understanding different cultures and perspectives is key to

growing your brand. Traveling to a new part of the world – or the country – is a great way to immerse yourself in another culture and gain a real perspective on a new market. Talking with local people, eating local delicacies, and visiting historical sites is an opportunity for you to gain a new perspective on an interesting market.

STAY HEALTHY

You might not know it, but traveling makes you healthy. Many reports show that taking a break helps you boost your mental and physical health. Work can be stressful, so taking vacations will help you recharge emotionally. We are all put in challenging situations at work, so taking a few days away will give you time to recharge and rest your emotions. If you work a desk job, you know it can be a struggle to get up and move around. Vacationing is a great way for you to mask activity with fun. It’s estimated that the average Disneyland visitor walks around 10 miles per visit. Whether you are working on your mental or physical health, traveling to a new place will keep you happy and healthy.

Vacationing isn’t about just going to a new place. Taking a break from work is a truly beneficial experience. Wherever you go, even if you’re taking a Vegas staycation, it’s important to get away from the workplace and find time for you. Happy travels!



Fusion Mixer

@

**THE SPA
INSIDE GVR**



VYPeeps relaxed by Green Valley Ranch Resort, Spa and Casino's award-winning pool and spa, taking in Silent Savasana, cocktails, and light bites as they welcomed a summer of networking and building new business relationships.

 *Kristina Alexis*
PHOTOGRAPHY

The Final Word

JUNE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In June, the Metro Chamber's Government Affairs team headed home after a busy, high-impact, and productive legislative session. The Chamber also welcomed nearly 1,700 Nevada business professionals to the Las Vegas Convention Center for Business Expo and a day of making new contacts and discovering new opportunities in the Las Vegas market. Here are just a few things the Metro Chamber did in June:

- Welcomed the business community to the Las Vegas Convention Center for Business Expo where about 1,700 attendees connected with more than 150 businesses in a dynamic, high-energy business-to-business atmosphere. New features for this year's program included more convenient hours, a Happy Hour at the end of the show, a new badge system to track booth attendance, and complimentary headshots from Kim Photography.
- Concluded the 2017 Legislature having successfully fought for and protected the Nevada business community, engaging on more than 100 bills and monitoring hundreds more.
- Held the final Carson City Call only hours after the conclusion of the Legislature, where the Chamber's vice president of government affairs Paul Moradkhan wrapped up the 2017 legislative session, and discussed highlights and victories for the business community.
- Celebrated the graduation of the Leadership Advance and Leadership Las Vegas Classes of 2017 during their graduation ceremonies, where we heard the classes' journeys throughout their respective 10-month programs.
- Mixed and mingled with current and new members, showcasing local business during the New Member Orientation.
- Meditated while we mingled with fellow VYP members at the June Fusion Mixer at The Spa at Green Valley Ranch.
- Engaged VYP members for the second Community Conversations program, featuring Colonel Paul Murray of Nellis Air Force base.
- Kicked off the Summer of Small Business campaign to spotlight the resources small businesses need to succeed and grow their business.
- Convened the Higher Education Policy Committee to engage members and their employees on issues important to economic development and expansion in Southern Nevada.



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**GREAT CULTURE?
EMBRACING INNOVATION?
GIVING BACK TO
THE COMMUNITY?**

Tell the Metro Chamber how your business stands out in the marketplace and it could win a Business Excellence Award (BizE). Nominations are open now through July 31.

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Friday, October 19
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